



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

April

2015

Issue No. 63



The New "N7RR" (See Editorial)

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028,
10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028,
50.098

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President's Message

Ah, for our members in New England, Spring is just around the corner. After a



winter of one snow storm after another and ultra-freezing temperatures, I'm sure you'll embrace the early touches of Spring with enthusiasm. Now, you can finally begin

thinking about and making those antenna repairs.

[Continued on next page]

By the time you read this, CWops will have begun its April-May CW Academy semester and it promises to be another record sized group. And, despite the lengthy backlog, the new signups just never seem to abate. Fortunately, the number of new associate advisors and advisors continues to grow, too.

We started a new program a few weeks ago, and you'll see more about it in the CW Academy column. As an active participant along with Jerry AC4BT and Will WJ9B, CW Academy management is fully represented. And, it's attracting others. Read the CW Academy report to find out why.

We are still some months away from the next CW Open event, but make a note on your calendars to participate on September 5. In contests, the more who participate, the more fun it is for everyone. Unlike nearly every other contest, you don't have to set aside an entire weekend to be in contention. Just set aside one four-hour period, give it all you've got, and you'll be in the running for a trophy or a plaque. And, most important, spread the word about CW Open.

I just received over 100 medallions for QTX Achievement Awards and CWT Participation Awards. My wife, Debra, and I will be getting those mailed out to the recipients as quickly as we can. I also received word that some winners of last year's CW Open have begun receiving their plaques and trophies. You earned them, so enjoy them.

CWops will again have its booth at Dayton Hamvention, and, most likely, it will again be close to the Begali booth and the ARRL area. We will need volunteers to staff the booth again. If you are planning to be in Dayton and can spare an hour or two on Friday or Saturday, please email me (k6rb@baymoon.com) and let me know. I'll post a schedule soon that will list everyone and their scheduled slots. Thanks in advance.

If you are thinking about joining us at the CW Enthusiasts' weekend in Falls Church in June, see Don's message in the events area of the website and get signed up. It's always a very enjoyable weekend with lots of unscheduled time to take in the sights around and in Washington D.C.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Sponsoring Major CW Awards!

Pete W1RM reports that CWops will be the sponsor for ALL continental winner CW plaques for the WAE starting with the awards being made for 2014. Plaques won't have our logo but an announcement that we are the sponsors.

Starting with the 2015 plaques, the CWops logo will be integrated into the plaque. Once DARC has some suggested designs, he'll share them. DARC has made an announcement of our support on their [Facebook page](#). We are also on board now with ARRL to sponsor the 2015 plaques for W/VE Low Power Single Op CW and World Low Power Single Op CW in the ARRL DX Contest.

The Page 1 corner photo is in honor of this month's *Solid Copy* contributor, Bruce Prior N7RR, whose article on the [Begali Stradivarius paddle](#) appears in this issue. No, he didn't request a ham call on an airplane, but he has had the pleasure of flying in this Cessna T210 which actually belongs

to your Editor. Bruce won't recognize it from the photo because it looked quite different a few years ago when he and his XYL rode it in Northwest Washington State. You see, in this photo 7RR has just returned from a three month, all-expenses-paid visit to the airplane spa in Lincoln, CA where she received a rather extreme makeover – new paint, interior, panel overlay, annual inspection and #4 cylinder. And no, I didn't choose Bruce's call for the tail number, either. I didn't even know Bruce when I acquired the plane 17 years ago and "N7RR" was already in place. One-by-two calls beginning with N are valid for both hams and planes. Now known affectionately as Rick's Rocket, N7RR cannot be renamed N6XI because the FAA prohibits the letters I and O for fear of visual confusion with the numerals 1 and 0. We CW ops don't have that problem!

James WB8SIW, President of the Morse Telegraph Club, is looking for help on May 16 at the Beaumont Scout Reservation in High Ridge, MO. The Scouts are looking for someone to demonstrate CW but it's the Dayton Hamvention weekend and their usual volunteers aren't available. If you aren't doing Dayton and can make it to High Ridge that Saturday morning, contact James at jameswades@gmail.com.

Non-member Bart KI6HQL writes: *"I've just published upgrades to CODEMAN, my 'semi-automated' Morse Code learning app; see www.codemansystem.com. My background is engineering and my occupation is cookie making but my wife, Judy (KI6HQH) and I are ham radio operators. I found learning Morse Code (at 68) difficult and frustrating so I developed my own 'system'... it's easy and it actually works! It's a streamlined, free, works on Android and iPHONE and our hope is to get more people into Morse Code. Hope you enjoy! We'd be very interested in receiving your comments and reviews."*

Enjoy this issue and please let me know what you would like to see in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI

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Visalia International DX Convention

April 17-19, 2015

Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA

&

CW Breakfast

April 18, 2015

Country Waffle Restaurant

5410 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia, CA

From Mike, [K6MKF](#), President - [NCDXC](#):

This is a reminder that the International DX Convention will be held in Visalia, California on April 17-19, 2015. Over 300 DXers have already registered. It's easy to do online. Check the website's "List of Attendees" to see who else will be there: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>. You are sure to see some familiar call signs. Over \$50,000 in major prizes will be awarded, including a complete Elecraft K-Line! Register online now!

Combine your visit to IDXC with a vacation. Visalia is just a few hours from world-class California vacation destinations, described in the Vacation Options brochure: <http://dxconvention.com/pdf/2015-IDXC-Vacations.pdf>

...and from Breakfast organizer [N6XI](#):

Once again we plan to gather for breakfast at the "CW Restaurant" (aka Country Waffle) on the Saturday morning of the **International DX Convention** in Visalia, CA, USA on April 18, 2015. There is no convention breakfast on the Saturday morning, so this is the way to go! The convention will be at the downtown Visalia Convention Center and its surrounding hotels, so we may need to arrange more than one gathering point for carpools. More details on that will follow once I know who is coming. We will meet at 7:10am at the hotels and **arrive at the restaurant around 7:30**. We plan to be back at the Convention Center in time for convention activities. This is a low-pressure, low-planning, no prizes, separate checks and good food affair that has been well received in the past by many CWops members and other CW-friendly guests. They "don't accept reservations" but, as usual, promise to do their best to accommodate us. In the past, they've done very well.

DIRECTIONS: Note that there are two Country Waffle restaurants in Visalia. We will be eating at our usual one at **5410 W Cypress Ave**. Although it's slightly farther from the Convention Center than its sister establishment, they have been terrific hosts for the past seven years. Also, La Quinta hotel, where some of our members will be staying, is in the same shopping center. If you are staying downtown, drive west on Rte. 198 to the Akers St exit. If you are at one of the airport hotels, drive east on 198. Either way, exit South on Akers and immediately turn right into the shopping center. There is plenty of free parking.

IMPORTANT: Please [e-mail N6XI](#) if you are coming and say who else you plan to bring so we can warn the restaurant ahead of time how many to expect. Also, tell us **where you are staying**, if you can drive, how many **extra car seats** you will have or if you will **need a ride**. We will do our best to arrange car pooling from the appropriate hotels.

RSVP for the breakfast only to rick@tavan.com as soon as possible.

Thanks and CU in Visalia!

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SAVE THE DATE

THE WEST COAST CW ENTHUSIASTS' CONFAB

May 1-3, 2015 Boomtown Hotel Casino Reno NV

In conjunction with the ARRL Nevada State Convention, NVCON 2015, we are sponsoring a weekend event for all CW enthusiasts. It is especially dedicated to the members of FOC and CWops, but it is also an opportunity to introduce another 400+ hams to the fun of CW.

The events are being held at the Boomtown Hotel Casino. It is on the Nevada/California border on I-80. See <http://nvcon.org/> and <http://boomtownreno.com/>.

Tentative Agenda

- Friday: CW Enthusiasts' Dinner
- Saturday: Special Event, CW-Only, On-Site Station K7RC for the 7QP Contest (Washoe County) www.7qp.org

Track Presentations

- CW – You Are Missing Fun On the Air – Tom Taormina K5RC
- Free dB's – The World of Wire Antennas – Hank Garretson W6SX
- Field Day – The Gateway to Live Contesting – Hank Garretson W6SX

7QP Multiop at W7RN in Virginia City (Storey County)

- Sunday: Open House at the Comstock Memorial Station W7RN www.w7rn.com

Registration will be via the NVCON Web Site. Stay tuned for that announcement. As a preview, Boomtown has given us room rates of \$29.98 and \$49.98. KOA has an RV park on site.

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North American CW Weekend

June 5-7, 2015

Washington, D.C. Area

The annual North American CW Weekend will be held 5-7 June 2015 in the Washington, DC area. This is a month later than in previous years to allow for a broader participation. The CW Weekend is for Morse code aficionados of all stripes: members of CWops, FOC, FISTS, Straight Key Club, and Morse Telegraph Society, or any individual with a special interest in Morse code communication. Rooms have been reserved at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia, at the special rate of \$ 99 per night. The special rate will be honored a day before and two days after the weekend for CW Weekend participants. A hospitality suite will be available at the Marriott for socializing and libations on Friday and Saturday evenings. **Contact Marriott reservations at 800-288-9290 or 703-849-9400 and specify "The North American Weekend Room Block."** You may also make reservations via the web site at www.marriott.com/wasfp/. Enter "RIARIAA" in the space for the Group Code to obtain the special room rate.

The Weekend kicks off with an informal pizza dinner on Friday, followed Saturday morning by brunch hosted by N3JT at his McLean home. The afternoon is free for touring or shopping. Cocktails and dinner follow at 6 pm at Clyde's Restaurant at Tyson's Corners. We generally meet on Sunday morning at the Marriott for an informal breakfast before heading home. On Sunday afternoon, tours of the world famous W3LPL station and antenna farm may be available by prearrangement with Frank.

The late spring is a pleasant time in the nation's capital, and there are numerous sights, museums, and world-class shopping centers within easy access to the hotel. A modest registration of \$25 per person is requested to defray the cost of the hospitality suite and refreshments. Contact W4ZYT, Don, at w4zyt.don@gmail.com to register or for questions. Come and join your fellow brass pounders for a pleasant and memorable event!

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Dual Lever Begali Stradivarius

Bruce Prior N7RR

I arrived at Bob's Burgers and Brew in Everett WA for the monthly Northwest QRP Group Pie & Coffee session way early, so I had finished my supper before others arrived, including Doug Phillips W7RDP carrying his heavy, brand-new Begali Stradivarius paddle in a protective case. I brought my [HamGadgets Ultra PicoKeyer](#) and a headset, so I was able to spend some quality time with the [Begali Stradivarius](#) while others were eating.



The name is telling. Wikipedia has a nice article on [Antonio Stradivarius](#). Stradivarius refers to a stringed musical instrument made by [Antonio Stradivari](#) (1644-1737) or other members of the Stradivari family of Cremona, Lombardy in northern Italy, only about 50 km from Cellatica (also in Lombardy) where the Begali factory is located. Stradivarius instruments represent the summit of stringed-instrument craftsmanship. Any Stradivarius is a treasure. The National Museum of American History (NMAH) at the Smithsonian Institution owns the superb-sounding Servais Stradivari cello as well as two decorated Stradivari violins and one decorated Stradivari viola. Those four instruments are occasionally played together by world-class musicians: For more, [click here](#).

The striking decor of the Begali Stradivarius paddle is similar to the hybrid Leonessa, with a black base and brass keyer housing, but with a fun difference. The Leonessa base is rectangular. The Stradivarius base is curved like a violin soundbox and filigree decorations simulate the curved opening of a violin. The heavy paddle didn't budge on the restaurant table while I paddled. The Stradivarius is not a backpack-class key.

Doug's Stradivarius, s/n 147, has W7RDP engraved on its base. The Stradivarius does not use the common pin and hole or ball bearing structure to support its two short, light-weight, aluminum levers. It sports two longitudinal vertical torsion blades instead. The result is a subtle twisting action which is uncannily smooth. Doug had his Stradivarius adjusted for moderate return force and very close contact spacing. I'd been reading an article in [The Atlantic](#) over supper, so I continued reading it by sending the text with the Stradivarius paddle. What a true pleasure! With close spacing, I could barely hear the silver contacts touch each other. I suppose customers could order gold contacts as an option. I've done that in the past with a Begali order.

As an experiment, I opened the contact spacing much wider to get a better feel for the nuances of the action. I was able to detect a slight increase in the return force through each paddle stroke. I didn't have a pressure gauge to document it, however. Then I tried decreasing the return force adjustment. Again, the action was even more seamless. Closing the contact spacing to a tiny gap, I continued to enjoy paddling.

After awhile I passed the paddle around the room for others to enjoy. Elecraft engineer Rich Heineck AC7MA was especially interested. (The new Elecraft KSYN3A Synthesizer Upgrade Kit for the K3 is Rich's project.) Rich's eagle eyes located the torsion blades on the Stradivarius paddle. We wondered how the return force is adjusted, but we decided not to remove an adjustment screw on Doug's paddle to find out. I made an inquiry and received the following reply from Ulrich Steinberg N2DE, the developer of the Begali CW Machine, who is closely associated with Begali as webmaster. Ulrich replied: *"Yes, like with most of the Begali keys, the return force on the Stradivarius is created by adjustable magnets. The torsion spring itself creates a miniscule force, but it is negligible compared to the magnetic return force (and not adjustable)."*

The Stradivarius is a game-changer. Using torsion blades for mounting the paddle levers makes a big difference.

Truly exceptional products of craftsmanship like Stradivari musical instruments and Begali Morse keys do not just retain their value over time. Their value increases, sometimes stratospherically. Don't bequeath your Begali keys to your children. Designate them for your great grandchildren in your will!

73,

Bruce Prior N7RR

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News & Notes

Jerry AC4BT

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jveisskohl@gmail.com.

Tom W4BQF: I found/have a new Dvorak keyboard made by Matias which is working well! The only problem I have with it is that in addition to the normal F1-F12 function keys, this board also has F16, F17 and F18. And I can't find out how to use these extra function keys with AutoHotKey!

As many of you know, Elecraft has produced "new and improved" synthesizer boards for their K3. Since I had owned my original K3 for a little over five years and had never sent it to the factory for the many mechanical and circuitry improvements, I decided to sell the perfectly good K3 and

purchase a new one. I quickly found a buyer and immediately purchased a new K3 s/n 8895 which I am in the process of getting used to again! My first impression of the new K3 was not overwhelming, but as I got accustomed to it and used it in the CWT's, I found I could 'sneak up' very close to a LOUD and clicky signal and still copy S1-S3 signals, a vast improvement from before. I also tested the full QSK up to about 95 wpm and found the improvement to be very good. The best part is when I go into QSK above 60 wpm, the K3 now allows the use of XIT/RIT and SPLIT options. After 62 years in the hobby, I have to say this upgraded K3 is close to being the best ham rig I've owned.

Joe KC0VKN: As several members whom I've QSO'd in the past couple of months know, I'll be QSY to a new QTH on April 7. Not a huge change, moving from EN41fp to EN41cp, about 10 miles west. We're trading up a city lot and neighbors for 15 acres of free space! Short hiccup in activity while we move, but, I'm hoping to be QRV on April 8th for at least one of the CWT's.

Kate K6HTN: Kate is spending more time in her shack after retiring at the end of January!

Rob VK6HG: I will be active throughout May as VK6ANZ, a special call sign commemorating Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) troops at Gallipoli and the Western Front in WW I. This is a Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society call. Please keep a look out for me during the 1300Z weekly tests. QSL via buro or direct to VK6PG.

Dan KB6NU: I am a new CWops member. I was recently given a Vibroplex Original, so if my fist has a decided "swing" to it, you'll know why. The bug was a gift from a blog reader (<http://www.kb6nu.com>) who wrote, "I noticed on your blog that you are a CW fan. I have a beautiful Vibroflex Key with case that was given to me by the family of my very best friend after his passing over 25 years ago. I never used it and would like to pass it on. This Key (sic) was a special piece of equipment that I wanted to give to someone that is helping hams as you are with your blog." How generous is that!

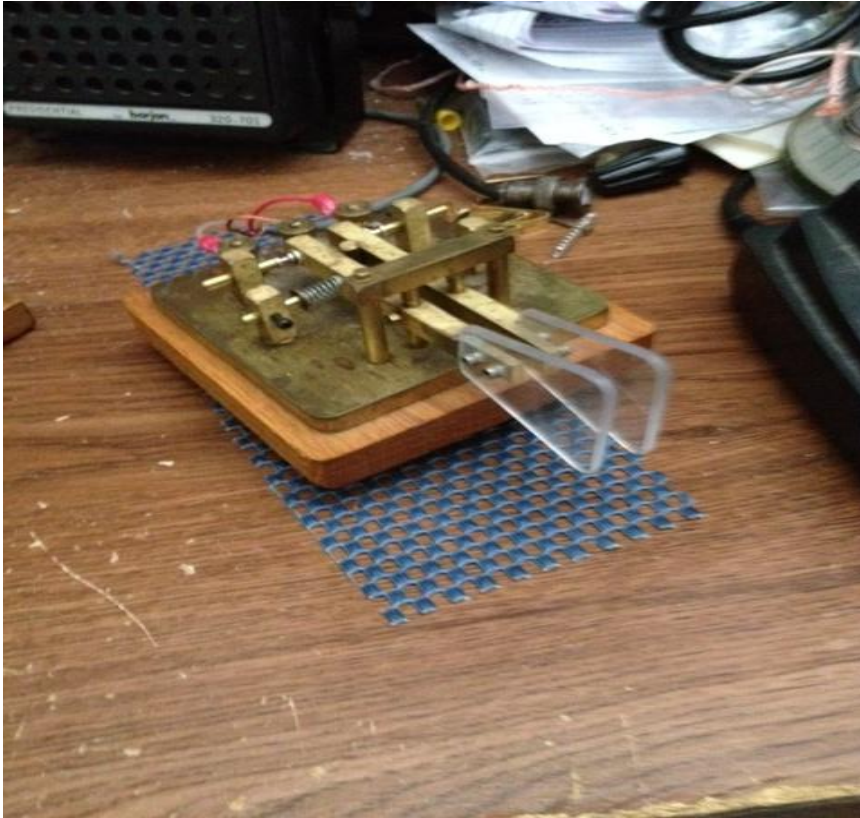
From the serial number, I've been able to determine that it was made in the late 1940s, and since it's been in the carrying case for a long time, it's in great shape. Using WB8SIW's wonderful [YouTube video](#) on how to adjust a bug, I was able to set it up so that even I can send copyable code with it. I can tell already that I'm going to have a lot of fun with this key.

Mark AB7MP: CWT Therapy! Soon after joining CWOPS (with a ton of help from Rob's CW Academy class) I found myself on the receiving end of three major surgeries. After each, I would try to get on the air, but the combination of the "loopy juice" and post-op pain meds really made CW sound foreign!

But each Wednesday I would tune across the CWT crowd trying to get synced up again. After a week or two, I found I was copying most, and by the third or fourth week post-op, my head was back in the game. The Wednesday tests provided me a much needed goal and a way for me to evaluate my recovery. A side benefit is that during my recovery, I could participate in the 1900Z CWT since I'm home on medical leave. I've been able to log ops that I wouldn't hear during the 0300Z CWT. But, all good things do come to an end. My recovery is going so well that I'll be going back to work soon. Farewell to the 1900Z crowd!

Bill K1NIT (CWA Student): At the annual Maine ARRL Convention last weekend, I picked up this set of paddles and I am trying to find out more about them. The guy I bought them from said he was told they were made in the Midwest, but that was all he knew. They have no brand name on them, but there is a serial number on the plate on the underside of the base reading "8900N3." They are a great set of paddles, and I like them better than either my Nye Viking or Vibroplex Brass

Racer. Anyway, the reason I am telling you about them is to see if someone in CW Ops have ever seen others like them. If so, I would appreciate hearing what you know or find out.



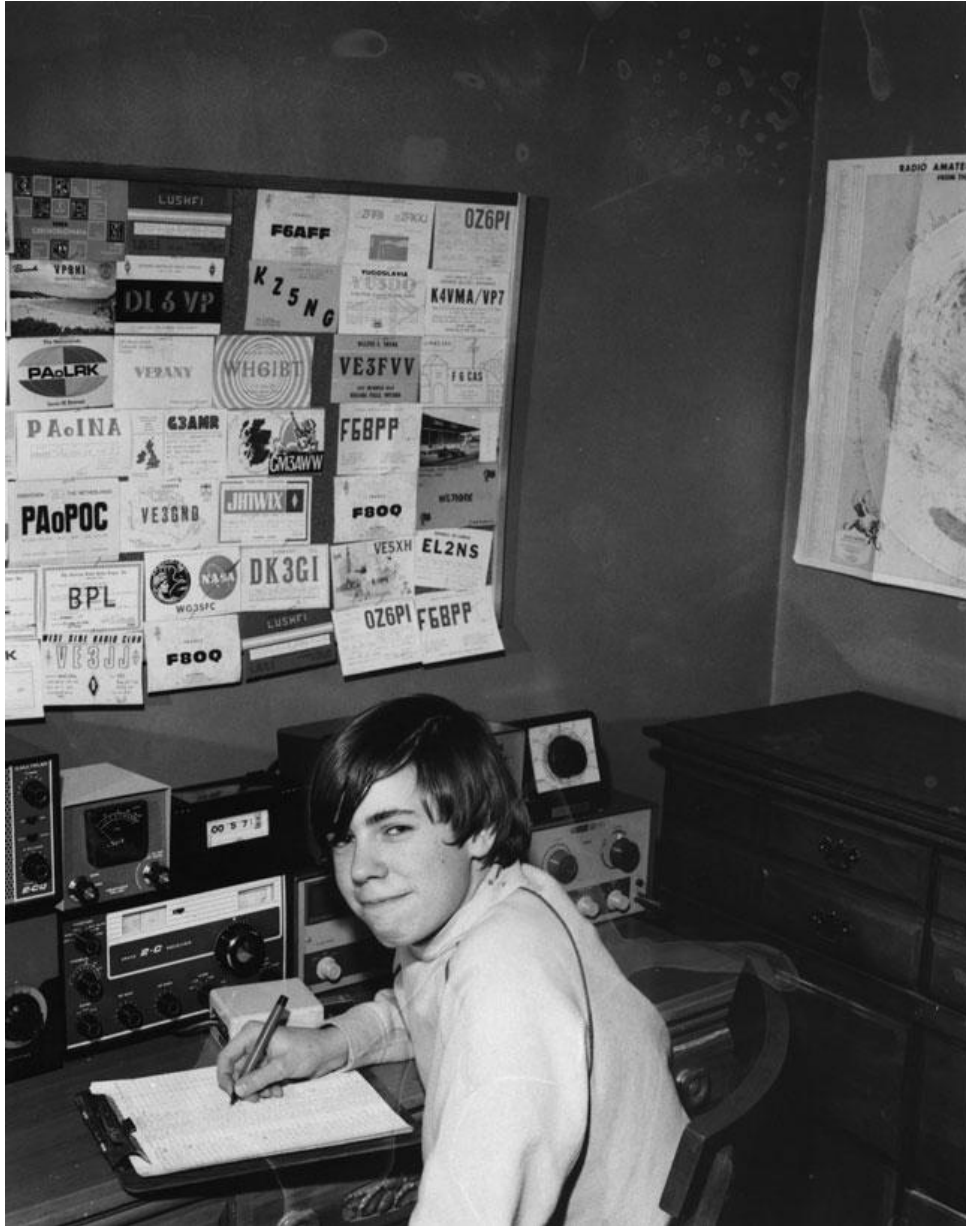
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How We Were – K3LR

by Hank W6SX

Here is an excellent shot of Tim Duffy K3LR in a former life. In his current life, Tim has just been named Dayton Hamvention Ham of the Year.



WA3SZX in 1973 (13 years old) – now K3LR

Please send me YOUR How We Were Photos. w6sx@arrl.net .

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

We have started our April-May 2015 semester and have a new record number of students who are participating. A special thanks to Jerry AC4BT for his masterful job of matching student signups with available advisors. Trust us, it's no easy job.

We are seeing a lot more Level 2 and Level 3 students because as someone graduates one level, they typically signup for the next, and so on. Some of these students also sign up to become associate advisors and help teach the next incoming groups. In some ways, it's self perpetuating. But, as always, we need as many advisors as we can get. Our backlog is still stretched out to Jan-Feb 2016.

We initiated a new program in late March called "CWA HF." Instead of an online structured program such as we now do for Levels 1, 2 and 3, CWA HF is a program of *ad hoc* on-the-air QSOs at speeds of 20 wpm or less (when needed) that permits students and others to practice their CW skills in real QSOs.

The short-term goal is to have three to five volunteer operators making such QSOs on or around 7.035 MHz from 7 PM eastern time to 9 PM pacific time. We'd like to do that every night of the week except for the 0300-0400Z CWT session time. Several of us have already given this a try and are having a lot fun with it. We are all keeping our speed at 20 wpm (less, if needed) and engaging in real conversational QSOs.

We identify ourselves, and our commitment to helping others practice their CW skills, by sending "CWA" at the end of a callsign exchange – e.g. AC4BT de K6RB CWA K. Sending our CWA ID lets others know that this operator is interested in a real QSO and committed to helping others improve their CW skills. And, guess what? It's catching on.

You can sign up to do an hour or more with Jerry AC4BT (jweisskohl@gmail.com). Or you can come by and engage in QSOs to help those who are monitoring both sides practice their head copy skills.

There is an additional side benefit, of course. It gives you an opportunity to make some QTX points by engaging in QSOs that go beyond 20 minutes. So in an hour's time you could be helping three people practice their CW skills and earn 3 points toward your QTX Achievement Award. Now, that's a good deal.

And if you happen to work either K6RB or WJ9B, you will be working either a Globe King 500 or a Drake 2NT. Feel free to use a keyer, a bug, a straight key (if you can go 20 wpm) or a keyboard. We want our students and others to hear code sent all different ways so they learn to head copy regardless of whether it's perfect keyboard code or "personalized" mechanical key code. Code is code.

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

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CWA HF – Advisors on the Air Program

Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT

This is a new CWops CW Academy (CWA) led program where a CWA Advisor is available on HF (40 Meters 7.035) and where anyone with interest can come and have QSOs/Ragchews in an informal setting. We can be identified on 7.035 by the 'CWA' at the end of our transmissions. Check the CWA HF calendar for available Advisors and times.

Our goal is to get enough CWops members, who have some spare time, to sign up as HF Advisors so that we place an Advisor on frequency (7.035) each day of the week and provide a global opportunity to improve CW skills for any CW operator interested in doing so.

Any CWops member, with a little free time, is welcome to join Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B, Cap W0CCA, Joe N3HEE, Chuck AB1VL, Mike K4RUM, and Jerry AC4BT during the evenings on 7.035 and serve as an CWA HF Advisor. Just check the CWA HF UTC calendar out and let me know when you would like to be on.

Here is a link to the CWops page that has more information about this program and also has an up to date UTC Calendar listing the Advisors who have volunteered to be on 7.035 along with their available days/times for QSOs. The calendar is updated weekly.

<http://cwops.org/cwa-aota.html>

March Highlights: March was our first month of CWA HF operations.

Will, WJ9B provided the picture below of the Vintage Station he is using for CWA HF. Note the beautiful CWA Award on the table, which was presented by CWops President Rob, K6RB to Will for his exemplary service and dedication as a CWA Advisor!

A few words from Will, W9JB about his vintage station

I am qrv with my vintage gear. I worked a k2 station in Tampa FL the other evening, using Ranger II and HRO....needless to say the guy, Mike, couldn't believe what I was using! The Ranger was "chirpy." I thought the oscillator of HRO was being pulled by the Ranger. Nope. So, I loaded the Ranger less heavily and I was good. The pair works well but of course I have to mute the HRO on TX.

I am QRV for calling "cq cwa" using ha-5 vfo, Drake 2nt, and 75s-3. Qsk is as good as it gets with this gear! I thought I had to modify ha-5 vfo but it was already set for cathode keying as needed by 2nt.

I'm pleased this stuff still works! Some of this gear has been boxed up for 10 years, almost all of it for at least 4 years due to the move out here three years ago. I purchased ha-5 vfo about a year ago, as they are very hard to find.



We hope to see you on the air with us soon.

73,

Jerry, AC4BT

CW Academy Co-Manager

ac4bt@arrrl.net

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

As of the end of March, we have completed 37 out of the 157 CWT sessions for this year, i.e. almost one-quarter. Here is a first-quarter report on progress in the chase for participation awards.

Pro-rating the qualification levels to the number of CWTs so far this year, we have 105 people who are on schedule to collect participation awards for 2015 if they carry on at the current pace for the rest of the year.

Currently on track for Gold(29): UR5MM, SM3CER, UA6HZ, W9CC, F6HKA, K1DW, SM4DQE, VE3KI, WJ9B, K6RB, W6SX, K7SV, N3JT, N4FP, N5RR, NN4K, NW2K, SM5ALJ, VE2FK, WA9LEY, SM0OY, W1UU, AA2ZW, N0TA, W2GN, FG8NY, N0AC, DJ1OJ, K1GU.

On track for Silver(33): K2ZC, KG5U, W4TMM, PA3DBS, K1BG, KJ9C, N4ZZ, N5AW, N5ZO, W4VQ, WB5EIN, N4DW, SM5BKK, VE3MGY, N4AF, KC4D, N8BJQ, WR5J, G3XLG, K1ESE, K1SM, NW0M, SM7CIL, VE2BZO, KW7Q, N7WY, SM6CUK, VK6HG, WX7SJ, K4RUM, G4BUE, SM7ATL, JF2IWL.

Bronze (47): K4JAZ, K8BZ, 9A2WJ, W0UCE, W1RM, W9ILY, DL8PG, G3YJQ, GW0ETF, K3JT, K4BAI, NI0R, NO5W, OH2BN, US0MF, W8MHW, K3SEN, W6KY, F5MNK, K5AX, K5KU, K8JQ, N4YDU, N5IR, N6NC, VE9AA, W0VX, W4YE, CR7AJL, OK1RR, AC2KJ, KE6K, N1EN, N3QE, NN6T, WA8HSB, HB9ARF, K3MD, K4ORD, K7GA, KI4MZC, NS9I, W8CAR.

These are participation awards, not score-based awards. To get your participation in a CWT session recorded, just make 10 contacts in a one-hour session (five if you are outside North America and Europe) and report your score to 3830scores.com. As of March 31 there were just enough CWTs left in the year to qualify for a Gold award starting from zero, so come on in and join the fun!

We do the CWTs because they're fun, so let's all make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

73,

Rich, VE3KI

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CWops Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WA S		Call	WA E
VE3KI	502	3260		W1RM	143		N5RR	50		W1RM	43
G4BUE	472	2457		F6HKA	124		W1RM	50		OH2BN	40
F6HKA	468	3402		W4VQ	120		W4VQ	50		AA3B	37
N5RR	384	3381		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		N5RR	37
W0VX	369	2334		N5RR	102		W1UU	50		SM6CNN	37
K6RB	358	2941		EA8OM	95		VE3KI	50		F6HKA	37
W1RM	323	3570		SM6CNN	93		G4BUE	50		EA8OM	36
EA8OM	290	2507		G4BUE	93		EA8OM	50		W4VQ	36
FG8NY	289	2320		VE3KI	92		W0EJ	50		VE3KI	36
K1ESE	274	1822		K1ESE	89		FG8NY	50		G4BUE	36
N1EN	254	1320		AA3B	88		AD1C	49		KR3E	34
W1UU	221	1664		EA1WX	88		K6DGW	49		KZ5D	34
W5ASP	215	893		DL8PG	86		GW0ETF	49		FG8NY	34
W9ILY	203	2094		W0VX	85		K1ESE	49		DL8PG	33
F5MNK	192	941		W9ILY	79		W0VX	49		PA7RA	32
K2ZC	182	347		PA7RA	79		F5MNK	49		W9ILY	32
DL8PG	180	1708		KZ5D	78		W9ILY	49		EA1WX	32
GW0ETF	157	1435		FG8NY	74		K6RB	48		K1ESE	32
N1ZX	143	940		KR3E	73		KZ5D	48		W0VX	31
G3YJQ	142	168		AD1C	73		NN6T	48		NN6T	29
G3XLG	140	201		N1ZX	70		W6KY	48		W1UU	29
PA7RA	127	1189		N1EN	69		AA3B	48		N1ZX	28
W4VQ	118	2024		W1UU	68		DL8PG	48		F5MNK	28
EA1WX	104	1642		GW0ETF	68		N1EN	48		GW0ETF	28
NN6T	97	1577		NN6T	67		WB9G	48		AD1C	25
JF2IWL	91	744		F5MNK	63		SM6CNN	48		N1EN	25
K6DGW	65	1328		W6KY	54		N1ZX	48		JF2IWL	23
NV9X	64	64		K6RB	53		KR3E	47		K6RB	22

KE6K	59	76	4Z1UF	50	EA1WX	46	4Z1UF	21
W0EJ	51	754	WB9G	48	WX7SJ	46	WB9G	19
AB7MP	23	208	JF2IWL	47	K0DTJ	45	W6KY	16
NU7Y	18	329	W0EJ	36	JF2IWL	45	G3YJQ	14
AA3B	0	4714	K6DGW	32	NU7Y	45	K2ZC	12
KZ5D	0	3239	KT5V	28	PA7RA	44	G3XLG	10
SM6CNN	0	2477	K0DTJ	23	KT5V	44	W0EJ	10
N2UU	0	1774	NU7Y	21	OH2BN	42	KT5V	9
AD1C	0	1630	G3YJQ	20	AB7MP	38	K6DGW	8
W6KY	0	1573	K2ZC	20	K2ZC	38	G0DJA	7
KR3E	0	1136	G3XLG	18	4Z1UF	36	W5TM	7
PA4N	0	955	WT2P	14	WT2P	34	K0DTJ	6
OK1RR	0	893	W5TM	11	W5TM	32	WT2P	4
WB9G	0	888	AB7MP	11	G3YJQ	32		
WX7SJ	0	610	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31		
OH2BN	0	530	KE6K	3	NV9X	27		
KT5V	0	518	NV9X	2	KE6K	21		
K0DTJ	0	417			G0DJA	8		
W5TM	0	235						
WT2P	0	149						
G0DJA	0	23						
PA1FOX	0	5						

Congratulations to Jean, FG8NY as the latest to reach CWops WAS.

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWOps:

1427	KE6K	John
1428	W6GJB	Glen
1429	WA5BDU	Nick
1430	K0NM*	Nizar
1431	AL9A*	Gary
1432	9A2WJ	Daki
1433	KA5M	Marsh
1434	N0YY*	Rick
1435	N2SO	Charlie
1436	KM4FO	Dwight
1437	K4ARQ	John
1438	N3EA*	Al
1439	AC2IK	Frank
1440	K9OM	Dick
1441	K7XH*	Mike
1442	4X4PP*	Pepe
1443	WA4PSC	Howie

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of April 8, 2015:

Need Sponsors: NK4I, K9OOL, K2PI, K8LSB

Invitations Extended: 5T0JL

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: www.cwops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a way of counting conversational CW QSOs. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - the QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

QTX Plaque Standings

The QTX Plaque is awarded to the operator with the most QTX points at the end of the year. March was a good month for QTX. While total reporting stations were down a bit, the number of QSOs was way up.

Here's the standings at the end of March - -

<u>Call</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	111	252
N5IR	97	234
N1ZX	54	161
K5KV	53	193
KC0VKN	45	94
K5YQF	40	109
K1ESE	38	125
K4AHO	31	103
NN6T	31	82
K6RB	18	45
K6HP	17	46
W6JMP	17	47
AC4BT	15	15
KE6OIO	15	37
HB9CVQ	13	32
W3WHK	7	46
JE1TRV	7	21
WA8IWK	3	25
W5JQ	2	7
K6HTN	1	15

WB6BEE has stormed to the lead with a huge count of 111. This is a new single month record. The prior record was held by N6TT at 106 in 2013. Congratulations Don!

This put some distance between Don and Bill N5IR and Benny K5KV. All three were very close at the end of February.

Personal bests in March went to - WB6BEE, N5IR, KC0VKN, K5YQF, NN6T, K6RB, K6HP, KE6OIO, and HB9CVQ. Each month that will be harder to do.

QTX Achievement Medals

QTX Medals will be awarded at the end of the year for 400 QTX points (Gold), 300 QTX points (Silver), and 200 QTX points (Bronze).

Now that we have three months under our belts we can see some patterns. If things continue at this pace for the rest of the year, WB6BEE, N5IR, N1ZX, K5KV, K5YQF, K1ESE, K4AHO will all be getting Gold Medals. And, KC0VKN and NN6T are close.

There is plenty of time for everyone to earn a medal before year's end. Don WB6BEE and Bill N5IR are already at the Bronze level.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW

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Upcoming CW Operating Events

Joe Staples, W5ASP

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.

There are two interesting international contests coming up in the next few weeks, the JIDX CW (Japanese) contest and the CQ-M (Russian) DX contest. Both should provide good activity levels and a variety of attractive multipliers. Be aware that although the CQ-M website itself does not appear to be current, the 2015 event is listed elsewhere.

The NCCC Sprints, the NAQCC, the 10-10 and the FISTS events have all been introduced in previous issues of this column in *Solid Copy*. A review of the recent results of these activities confirms a reasonable level of participation sufficient to offer the established CW operator the opportunity to work both the low power advocates and the newcomers to the world of code. Your presence will be welcome and encouraging.

Once again the state QSO parties fill the weekends ahead. For those CW adherents who are not addicted to high rates, long hours and incessant QRM, participation in these events provides a welcome and relaxing operating experience. While the intensity level may be lower than in the major contests, the requisite skill level can be every bit as demanding. This is particularly true when tracking high activity level mobiles as they dash from county to county. Looking for a real

challenge? Work one of these guys in every county they traverse. Then include the other active mobiles. You'll find real satisfaction is right at your "fingertips".

APRIL/MAY EVENTS

JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12 http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10 http://www.cq-m.ru/en/rules.html
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 17
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 24 http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 15 www.naqcc.info/
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3 http://www.ten-ten.org
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 9 http://fistsna.org
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 2359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
Nebraska QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 18 to 0200Z, Apr 19 and 1700Z, Apr 19 to 2300Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3

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